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NEWS LETTER No. 4

8TH OCTOBER, 1931 (Reprint invited. Acknowledgement will be appreciated.)

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Dr. HENRY A. ATKINSON, *General Administrative Secretary,*
PAUL H. STEELE, M. A., *Assistant Administrative Secretary.*
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UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR LIFE AND WORK

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

GENEVA, 2, RUE DE MONTCHOISY Tel. 27.060 Telegrams & Cables: Kirchenbund, Geneva.

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND.

By vote of the Council at the meeting held in Chexbres in 1930, it was agreed that the Universal Christian Council should meet every two years and the Executive Committee at least once a year. At the special meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris last February the reorganization was completed, and the first regular meeting of the newly-organized Executive Committee was held in Cambridge August 22-29th.

Forty members of the Committee were present, including chairmen of commissions and members of special committees, and every member who could not attend was either represented or had sent some explanation of his absence.

The arrangements had been admirably made by the Rev. P. T. R. Kirk, secretary of the British Section, and his associates. The meetings were held in Ridley Hall—a theological college of the Church of England. The principal, the Rev. P. Gibson, was especially courteous and showed the members of the Council many kindnesses. An interesting and pleasant reception was given in the Guildhall by the mayor and mayoress of Cambridge and a large number of prominent citizens of the town were present and greeted the visitors.

The Master and Fellows of Kings College, Trinity College and Queens College entertained the conference. An afternoon was spent at Ely, where, as the guests of the Canon, the Council was shown over the Cathedral and told of the many incidents in

the past connected with it which are now a part of the common history of the English speaking peoples of the world.

The members of the Council stayed at Ridley Hall, had their meals together in the dining hall of the College and met for prayers each morning in the chapel.

Not only were the arrangements well made, but the plans for publicity were excellent. The Lord Bishop of Winchester gave an address on Sunday afternoon, which was broadcast from London and attracted wide attention, in which he told of the Stockholm Conference of 1925, and gave a history of the progress and development of the Move-up to the present time.

On the last day a dinner was tendered the members by the British committee, at which a number of addresses were given.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP SÖDERBLOM.

The Executive Committee labored during these days under the shadow caused by the death of the Most Reverend Nathan Söderblom, Archbishop of Upsala. All felt that his death was little less than a tragedy. It was he who had the vision of " what the movement might become " which was afterwards to be associated with the name " Stockholm ". His generous and unfailing energy made possible the holding of the meeting in the city of Stockholm in August, 1925, out of which developed all the plans and purposes of the Stockholm Movement. He was present at and took part in almost every meeting since 1920, when the plans for the Conference first began to assume definite form. With diligence he co-operated with all those who were working to the end that the Church might in our generation become a greater instrument for meeting the new and baffling problems which confront present-day civilization. He was the genius of the Movement and his loss will be keenly felt, but we are confident that the same Spirit that guided and directed him will guide us in the future. Archbishop Söderblom will live on not only in the memories of his colleagues, but because of the influence of his personality and his work.

A memorial service was held in the chapel of the college at which the Lord Bishop of Winchester officiated, and addresses were made by Archbishop Germanos, president of the Orthodox section, Bishop Ammundsen of Denmark, Pastor Jézéquel of France, Prälat Schoell of Germany, Pastor Sandegren of Sweden, and Professor Dr. William Adams Brown of New York. A memorial pamphlet now being prepared in which these addresses will be printed will be ready for distribution and sent to members of the Council and friends of the Movement within a short time.

The Council suffered other losses during the year in the deaths of Professor Arthur Hjelt of Finland, who was associated with the Stockholm Movement from the first, and of Dr. K. T. Paul of India, a member of the Fifth Section and an outstanding man in his community.

REPORTS FROM THE SECTIONS.

The reports from the various Sections were given in detail. Progress is being made in creating an interest in Church circles and in securing a consideration of the social and economic research work of the Institute in the various countries. The present world-wide economic depression is a challenge to the Church and offers a unique opportunity for service which the Institute in Geneva is attempting to meet.

European Section.

The report from the European Section given by Prälat Schoell, who represented not only **Germany** but President Kapler, president of the Continental European Section, indicated a growing interest in and willingness to co-operate with the work of the Council. The European Section paid its full quota of the expenses. Visits were made during the past year by Dr. Keller and Dr. Schönfeld, representing the Institute in Geneva. In many centres, throughout Germany in particular, classes have been formed for the study of problems connected with the social program of the Churches. The religious papers of the Continent carry a great deal of news relating not only to the work of the Research Institute and the Council, but of the whole œcumenical movement. Prälat Schoell told of the difficulties being endured in Germany at the present time—economic, political and social—and indicated to what an extent this depression was affecting the spirit of the people.

Pastor Jézéquel, speaking for **France**, reported that a special committee on international affairs had been set up by the French Protestant Federation, and in spite of the general atmosphere of political distrust, much progress was being made.

Professor Wilfred Monod reported that in his contacts with the students at the University of Paris he had come to realize that they have an increasing knowledge of and interest in the social work of the Churches.

Bishop Ravasz of **Hungary** spoke of his interest in the Council and of its work throughout his country. He reviewed the difficulties arising from economic and political disturbances, but felt hopeful that with sympathetic co-operation on the part of members of other Sections—and particularly with the European group working together—the Council would find increasing sympathy and support in Hungary.

Dr. Zilka speaking for **Czechoslovakia** reported that the question of the Churches and labor, together with the various problems such as unemployment and standardization, were to be a principal subject of discussion by the Churches of his country, led by the social commission of the Protestant Churches, and that in the autumn of this year the Federation will undertake the task of preparing material for a nation-wide Church conference on unemployment. Dr. Zilka also indicated that, while the social problems are being carefully considered by the State and the Labor Party, the Churches are influencing their own members to responsibility in this task.

Bishop Ammundsen told of the progress being made in **Denmark** and said that the

question of creating a better organization for co-operation with the Council would be one of the principle items on the program of the Bishop's conference which is soon to be held there.

Pastor Paul Sandegren of **Sweden** told how the international and social research of the Churches is effectively reaching every Swedish pastor. Sweden is in a most favored position. The Churches officially recognize the Universal Christian Council and the World Alliance as a part of their work and collections for these organizations are taken in all Churches. The Government makes a grant to the Swedish committee which is paid out of the general budget provided by the State for peace work.

The Swedish Government, we feel, has made a decided step forward in providing a budget for peace work. Why cannot other governments do something of the same sort ? If the signatories of the Kellogg Peace Pact take the Pact seriously why should they not establish Departments of Peace and make appropriations therefor ? Good will and understanding between nations makes for surer defense than do armies and navies, and a small proportion of the cost of armaments applied to the education of public opinion against war would be the best security possible for a nation to have against attack either from without or within.

American Section.

The Rev. Henry Leiper, secretary of the American Section, reported that the period of organization of his Section was now complete and that it had finished its first year's work with a full-time executive secretary and as a closely identified part of the work of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. The American Section constitutes the " Commission on Relations Abroad " of the Federal Council.

Through the co-operation of the Federal Council with the American Section a conference on unemployment was held last January in Washington, D.C., the findings of which were communicated to the Protestant Churches by the Department of Research of the Federal Council. This conference was doubly significant because it brought together for the study of a common problem representatives of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths.

The financial situation in America is affecting all the work of the various Churches and the inter-Church movements. Mr. Leiper told of the difficulties of raising the budget, but was optimistic as to the future. He indicated that what is needed more than anything else in America is more intensive effort to make known the work of the Universal Christian Council to a larger number of people and to intensify interest over a larger field.

Orthodox Section.

Archbishop Germanos, speaking of the progress made in Orthodox lands, reported that the Œcumenical Patriarch of Constantinople proposed to call a synod which will

be held in June of next year to consider, among other things, the social work of the Churches. At this synod a memorandum on the Stockholm movement will be presented and all the Orthodox Churches asked to co-operate more fully. A lengthy discussion developed in regard to the work among the Orthodox groups.

The Bishop of Novi Sad reporting for **Yugoslavia** said that, while many of the bishops were cautious in their attitude toward the movement, the Patriarch of the Church of Yougoslavia was sympathetic. He felt that the work done throughout the country by bishops and local pastors, and the visits of Pastor Jézéquel, Dr. Keller and Dr. Atkinson, indicated a new era of progress.

Professor Dr. Zankow said that in **Bulgaria** effective work was being done through the schools and universities by means of lectures on social questions given by leaders of the Churches. He spoke with appreciation of Dr. Keller's recent visit to Sofia.

British Section.

The Rev. P. T. R. Kirk, secretary of the British Section, reported the organization in England of the Council of Churches for Social Questions. This Council came into being in January, 1929, and was founded on the principle of direct representation of all the Churches of its constituency. Its denominational representatives number thirty members from the Church of England, six members each from the Baptist, Congregationalist and Wesleyan Methodist Churches, and three members each from the Presbyterian, Primitive Methodist and Unitarian Churches and the Society of Friends.

The work of the Council is carried on by five standing committees dealing respectively with international co-operation, research, social education, local co-operation and " youth ". The Council and its standing committees include about one hundred and twenty-five persons, and in addition there are about three hundred associate members. A periodic bulletin is issued and close co-operation maintained with the Institute in Geneva. Mr. Kirk said that outside of very limited circles the work of the Institute was not well known, but that progress was being made, and the British Council was determined to carry out its plans and bring more Churches and Church people into intimate, intelligent and effective contact with the work that is being done by the Universal Christian Council.

The Fifth Section. (Churches not represented in other Sections).

The Rev. J. Sandegren, a member of the Madras Christian Council, made a most interesting report on the impressions of the work of the Council in **India**. He explained that all he could give would be " an impression ", because the Fifth Section has not been organized effectively, and, on account of the political unrest and disorder in China and the uncertainty in India, it is very difficult to form a coherent body that can speak with authority. Dr. Sandegren told of the social and economic situations in India and

the effect of the political fight now going on. With the gaining of more freedom and a larger autonomy he felt that India and the Churches of India would have a more important place than ever in helping to work out world problems.

Following Dr. Sandegren, Bishop Nuelsen gave an interesting account of an extensive trip he made through **China** last year, during which he visited a number of universities, schools and theological seminaries. He said he had felt a decided interest in social rather than theological questions, and that everywhere in China students were eager to know what the Christian Church had to answer to the questions raised by the world economic situation and by communism.

Professor Westman, who has recently returned from China, also spoke of the opportunity of the Church there and of the questions raised by the young people.

FINANCES.

The Treasurer stated in his report that by following a policy of rigid economy the Council has managed not only to come through the year without a deficit, but to effect a small operating balance. The savings made last year, however, cannot be continued without serious detriment to the work. A growing organization requires increasing expenditure, and while every effort will be made to carry on the work economically, the budget adopted at Cambridge is not larger than the absolute demands made by the enlarging work of the Council, the Institute and its commissions. It is true that when the offices of the World Alliance are combined with those of the Council, a definite financial advance can be made provided each of the sections and all friends of the Movement make their payments and contributions promptly and generously.

Special contributions made last year by the Church Peace Union, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the German Church Federation and the Church in Sweden for the salaries of secretaries and research collaborators amounted to more than £3,000.

Dr. Atkinson was re-elected Treasurer for 1931-32.

PRINCIPAL DECISIONS OF THE CAMBRIDGE MEETING.

The most important decision reached at Cambridge was in regard to the co-ordination of the Universal Christian Council and the World Alliance. A resolution was unanimously adopted stating that in the judgment of the Executive Committee the time has come for investigating the possibility of close co-operation with the World Alliance in regard to the organisation of the work in Geneva. It was further suggested that the World Alliance be asked to appoint a committee to confer with a committee appointed by the Universal Christian Council to discuss jointly the possible election of a General Secretary to have charge of the administrative work of both these organisations and of the Institute in Geneva.

It was further unanimously voted that Dr. Henry A. Atkinson be asked to continue as General Secretary with Mr. Paul Steele as his assistant, it being understood that at his own request, Dr. Atkinson would be relieved of this responsibility as soon as a suitable man can be secured for the position. Meanwhile Dr. Atkinson will be required to keep only such personal contact with the Geneva office as he finds compatible with his other responsibilities.

The World Alliance, which held its Conference in Cambridge following the meeting of the Executive Committee, passed a resolution agreeing to move its administrative office to Geneva and to collaborate with the Universal Christian Council in electing a General Administrative Secretary to serve both organisations.

It is expected that this change will be made early in the new year thus centering the international social work of the Churches at Geneva.

World Conference in 1935.

In 1935, ten years will have elapsed since the Stockholm Conference. Following the vote of the Chexbres meeting, it was agreed that the Conference of 1935 should be held in England, and the following Committee on Preparation and Programme was appointed:

Dr. William Adams Brown, chairman
Prof. Wilfred Monod
Prof. Dr. Eugène Choisy
Dr. Paul Sandegren
Prälat Schoell
Principal Dr. A. E. Garvie
The Bishop of Novi Sad
Bishop L. Ravasz
His Grace the Metropolitan of Thyateira, Archbishop Germanos
The Lord Bishop of Winchester
Dr. Adolf Keller
Dr. Hans Schönfeld
Dr. Henry A. Atkinson

This Committee made the following recommendation which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED:

(1) That we authorize our chairman on behalf of the Council and in furtherance of the action taken by that Council at Chexbres in 1930 to address to the different Churches which sent delegates to the meeting at Stockholm in 1925, and to such other bodies as, from time to time, the Executive Committee may approve, a communication informing them of the judgment of the Council that it is desirable to hold a second Conference on the general lines of Stockholm, in England in August, 1935, and of the Council's willingness to undertake, in co-operation with such delegates as each Church may appoint, the preparations necessary for the Conference.

(2) That we ask the various Churches to notify us, if possible not later than the meeting of the Council in August, 1932, of their willingness to be represented in such a conference, and to request them to designate some appropriate Committee of their body with whom we may consult as to subjects to be included in the programme of the proposed Conference or any other matter which may arise in preparation for it.

(3) That pending the adoption of a detailed programme for the proposed Conference by the appropriate committees, we suggest as general themes for the consideration of the Conference:

(*a*) A survey of the more important developments in the field of Christian life and work which have taken place since the last Conference, together with an analysis of the problems and tasks which grew out of them;

(*b*) A consideration of ways in which the Churches may co-operate more effectively for the purpose of realizing the aims set forth in the Stockholm Message of 1925;

(*c*) A further exploration of the basic convictions and experiences which motivate and inspire Christian service, both in its individual and social aspects, with a view to:

(1) deepening the religious life of the members of our Churches,

(2) clarifying their understanding of the moral issues which confront the Church and the world to-day, and

(3) promoting a spirit of self-sacrifice and consecration in facing them.

(4) That we request the officers of the Council through the appropriate committees to consult with the various groups interested in our Movement as to the detailed topics to be included in the programme of the proposed Conference, and that the suggestions so assembled be referred to a Committee on Programme to be appointed by the Chair, which shall report to the Council in 1932 their recommendations as to further procedure in the development of the programme.

Disarmament.

The Executive Committee agreed strongly to support the Disarmament Conference which meets in Geneva in February, 1932. The Committee unanimously passed the following resolution which is commended to all the Churches and Church people of the world:

" The Executive Committee of the Universal Christian Council, in view of the critical importance of the approaching Disarmament Conference, urges the Churches represented to give themselves earnestly to prayer for the divine guidance of the Conference so that the delegates may be led to wise and righteous decisions; to the presentation of such petitions to their national governments, as the special circumstances of their countries may demand, and to exercise their influence on their governments in all such ways as are possible toward securing its action in support of such reduction of armaments as shall promote the peace of the world; and to co-operate with the international efforts of the World Alliance as closely as the special conditions in each country allow.

" We gratefully receive and cordially associate ourselves with the statement which has been submitted to us by our German and French brethren and further commend it to the careful consideration of the World Alliance."

Meeting of the Council in 1932.

It was agreed that the meeting of the Council in 1932, should be held in Geneva, August 13 to 20. Full details regarding this meeting will be sent to all members early in the year.

Activities of the Commissions and Departments of the Institute.

The Cambridge meeting appointed a new Commission now known as the **" International Social Commission "** which takes the place of the " Institute Commission ", the " Commission on Church and Labour " and the " Commission on Morals ". The Commission on Church and Labour arranged for a Congress on Social Christianity, which was held in Geneva from September 29th to October 2nd. Five hundred representatives were present from the Latin speaking countries. The programme was well arranged and included such subjects as disarmament, unemployment, social legislation, defense of personality, the christianizing of the industrial order. Among the speakers were Prof. Wilfred Monod, M. Charles Gide of Paris, Prof. Eugène Choisy of Geneva, M. André Philip of the University of Lyon, M. Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, Prof. Lasserre of the University of Lille, Pastor Elie Gounelle, M. Georges Thélin and others who are closely related to the social programme of the Church and the Geneva Institute. The Conference was well attended and attracted wide interest and is a fitting preparation for the International Labour Week planned by the Institute for 1932.

The Youth Commission organized a Study Week from the 22nd to the 27th of September in Geneva, putting special emphasis on unemployment and the responsibility of the Churches. The sessions were held in the International Christian Study Centre connected with the Institute.

The Theologians Commission plans to continue its conferences between the theologians of the various countries, similar to the one held in Chichester, England, in February.

The Press Commission arranged a regional conference at the end of April, at Amsterdam, at which representatives from Great Britain, Germany, France and Holland were present. In the chair were Prof. D. Hinderer, Berlin; Canon Partridge, London, Secretary of the Press and Publication Board of the Church Assembly; and Prof. Dr. van Veldhuizen, Gronigen. Secretariat: Rev. MacQueen, Editor of the " Scots Observer ", Monsieur le Pasteur A. Monod, Paris, of the " Syndicat de la Presse protestante de France " and Dr. van der Vaart-Smit, Director of the Dutch Christian Press Office. The discussions centred around the question of international collaboration in dealing with problems of to-day.

With a view to the **International Study Conference on Unemployment,** to be held in April, 1932, at Basle, the Research Department, upon request of various Churches, is preparing the material for national study conferences in various countries and, in a systematic study-outline, will compile the results of all national study conferences held between October and December, 1931. These studies will take into consideration problems arising from closer co-operation of the Council with the " World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches " and connected in any way with research work on social and economic causes of war. Dr. H. Schönfeld will take part in the German study conference in Berlin, and our Swedish collaborator, Rev. N. Ehrenström, who is at present studying the unemployment situation in Sweden, will take part in the Swedish study conference. Through his participation in the World Economic Congress at Amsterdam of the Industrial Relations Association, Mr. Ehrenström was able to collect valuable material for the preparation of the International Study Conference on Unemployment, and at the same time he had an opportunity of interesting a number of leading economists and social workers in collaborating with the Research Department.

As a result of the studies of theological problems underlying the social work of the Church, a pamphlet of studies will be published in the next few months, prepared by the theological collaborator of the Research Department, Mr. O. Bauhofer, under the title, **Church and World: the Basis of a Christian Sociology.** The chapter headings are: What the Social Problem Implies for the Church, The Eschatological Doctrine (a discussion mainly of the Theology of Crisis), The Problem of a Christian Sociology, The Doctrine of Natural Law, Christian Ethics and Corpus Christi, and The Meaning of Christian Ethics for the World.

Mr. O. Bauhofer gave two series of lectures at a summer course on Economics and Ethics organised by the University of Berne. His subjects were " The Social Problem as a Church Problem " and " Historical Types of Christian Social Ethics ". At the end of September he took part in a study conference on " Natural Law "

organised by a group of social workers, pastors, and economists of the Evangelical Church of Hannover and addressed two public meetings at Hannover and Hildesheim on the Stockholm Movement and the present-day social problems.

The studies of the problem of an international regulation of **non-industrial child-labour** are being carried on in collaboration with the national organisations entrusted with this matter by the Churches. Furthermore, the Research Department, in collaboration with the Churches and the Missions for Seamen, is preparing a memorandum with regard to the **promotion of seamen's welfare in ports.** This memorandum is based upon another study, published in 1930, " The Welfare of Seamen ", and it will be submitted to the International Labour Conference in December next.

The plans of work for the Research Department have been discussed by the Advisory Committee on Research, set up in Cambridge by the Executive Committee of the Universal Council. The first meeting of this Advisory Committee was held from September 28th to 30th in Geneva.

In connection with the new tasks of the Research Department, the General Secretary for **Education and Extension,** Professor Dr. A. Keller, is building up the necessary educative work. Through addresses and lectures on the œcumenical task of the Stockholm Movement, he seeks to open the way for concrete collaboration in these problems amongst Churches and students. His lectures at the Congress of the Eastern Group of the Reformed World Union, held at Mazamet (South of France), from September 16th to 23rd, served the same purpose. He spoke on the same subjects at Zagreb during the Social Course for Pastors of the newly constituted Evangelical Church of Yugoslavia. With a special view to an analysis of dialectic theology, Professor Dr. Keller is shortly to publish a study-outline entitled " Der Weg der dialektischen Theologie durch die kirchliche Welt ". (The movement of dialectical theology amongst the Churches.) (Publisher: Verlag Kaiser, München.)

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Stockholm.** An international Christian quarterly review of 96 pages, in three languages, on the social activities of the churches. Annual subscription 8/– or $2.00 from all booksellers. *The Oxford University Press, London,* or *The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, U.S.A.*

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS OF ISSUE No. 4.

International Friendship and Youth.
Dr. J. C. Bacon, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.

Christianity, Law, and Sociology.
Rev. R. G. Millidge, Sutton, England.

Prolétariat français et Christianisme.
Pastor Arnold Brémond, Divonne-Les-Bains, France.

Lessons from Critics of the Social Gospel.
Rev. Percy Hartill, West Bromwich, England.

Ethik des Kaufmanns.
Professor H. Töndury, Berne, Switzerland.

Die Soziale und Wirtschaftliche Lage Thüringens und die Aufgabe der Kirche.
Sozialpfarrer Ludwig Rodenberg, Eisenach, Germany.

The Social Welfare Movement.
Mr. Thomas Hancock Nunn, Secretary of the Hampstead Social Council, Hampstead, London, England.

The Catholic Ideal of Social Life.
Rev. Lewis Watt, Heythrop College, Chipping Norton, England.

Die Weltverflochtenheit der Kirche im Lichte der Statistik.
D. Joh. Evers, Lübeck, Germany.

2. **News Letter,** quarterly in English, French and German, of the activities of the Council and Institute (gratis).

3. **The Churches and the Welfare of Seamen.** *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 3 (gratis).

4. **The Churches and Present-day Economic Problems.** *Studies and Documents.* English series No. 4. Price 6d., or 20 cents a copy. *I.C.F. Book Shop, 4, The Sanctuary, London,* S.W.1, or *The Social Institute, 2, rue de Montchoisy, Geneva.*

5. *Handbook of the Churches.* In three languages, price 3/–, or 3.50 Swiss fr., pub. by *the International Christian Press Commission, Berlin-Steglitz, Beymestr.* 8.

6. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Continuation Committee, Chexbres, Switzerland, 1930. (With reports of the Commissions on Youth, Press, Churches and Labour, Co-operation, the Theologian's Commission, Reorganisation of the Secretariat. Also the new Constitution and Byelaws of the Council.) English, German and French editions.

All the publications mentioned in this letter may be obtained through the Institute.